

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Illinois Department on Aging White House Conference on Aging Listening Session December 8, 2004 Current Issues

The Illinois Association of Nutrition Programs is an organization of 45 state senior nutrition providers dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of hundreds of thousands of qualifying and needy seniors across the state. The largest single funder of these programs is Title III-C of the Older Americans Act. The state's senior population is living longer and growing rapidly. As this trend continues, there will be a greater number of elderly who will become frail and disabled and will require the assistance of this vital program to keep them in their homes longer. Title III-C of the Older Americans Act is not keeping pace with these trends and needs to be strengthened. To this end, the Illinois Association of Nutrition Programs makes the following recommendations:

- Examination of the systemic issues involved in the continued decline in the Title III-C₁ program in the State of Illinois and nationwide needs to occur. Contributing issues to the decline and the cash resources available to reverse the decline need to be identified. Once identified, corrections need to be employed.
- There are seniors in the State of Illinois that need more than one meal a day and meals on the weekends. If it is the intent of the Title III-C program to keep seniors healthier longer, this condition warrants investigation. The resources needed to correct this weakness must be identified simultaneously.
- Prior to transfers being made from Title to Title, existing needs in the nutrition program must be addressed before dollars are removed from the Title III-C programs and transferred completely out of nutrition.
- Participant donations to the nutrition program have stayed stagnant or are in major freefall. The donation structure within the program needs to be re-organized insuring that the program maintains a growing revenue stream absolutely necessary to its future.

IANP is grateful for the opportunity to communicate these important concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

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